

## Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

<b>Nursling Church of England VC Primary School</b>	
<b>Address</b>	Nursling Street, Nursling, Southampton SO16 0XH

### School vision

Learning to love, Building resilience, Taking Responsibility

Guided by our three strong Christian values and five Learning Behaviours, regardless of origin or faith, we will work together to flourish and succeed.

The Lord says, “I will guide you along the pathway of your life. I will advise you and watch over you.”  
(Psalm 32:8)

### School strengths

- The school’s Christian values of love, hope and courage are carefully woven throughout all aspects of school life. This ensures that pupils are treated as individuals and nurtured accordingly.
- Partnerships with the local church are strong. This enables ongoing, fruitful discussion and pastoral support for pupils and adults.
- Religious education is well led, using an enquiry-based approach. This inspires pupils to be curious and staff to deliver a well-planned curriculum with confidence.
- Leaders ensure that relationships are at the heart of the school. Consequently, parents feel understood, pupils feel secure, and staff feel valued.

### Areas for development

- Embed and robustly evaluate the impact of the school’s Christian vision. This is so that the Christian roots of the vision become explicit drivers for the school’s decisions and actions.
- Build on the current understanding of spirituality which helps pupils to ‘find their place in the world.’ This is so that there are frequent planned opportunities for spiritual flourishing within the curriculum and collective worship.
- Empower pupils to make their own decisions to become agents of change, locally, nationally and globally.

### Inspection findings

Nursling is a welcoming, happy and inclusive school where the unique qualities of each pupil are celebrated and nurtured. The school embodies the concept that ‘the whole is greater than the sum of its parts’. The school is referred to as a ‘family’ by leaders, staff, pupils and their parents. Many parents choose the school because of this depth of care. Nursling School cherishes its relationships and values the profound effect that these can have inside the school community and beyond. This has been richly demonstrated by donating food parcels and supporting Ukrainian pupils with opportunities to meet in school to speak their first language.

Governors care deeply about the school. They understand the challenges of the past which have been successfully navigated and are ambitious for the school's future development. They are fully supportive of the staff and therefore welcomed into school as valued members of the family.

Leaders ensure that the Christian values of love, hope and courage are applied meaningfully to each aspect of the school day. These are the foundation of the school's restorative justice approach to behaviour management, enabling pupils to make wise choices. The school's Christian values are owned and understood by the staff and pupils. In this way, they form a common language which enables conversations and brings comfort in difficult times. The strength of the Christian values is instrumental in sustaining a vibrant and diverse school community. Consequently, pupils embrace difference with confidence, respectful curiosity and genuine warmth.

The staff are passionate and committed to the school's Christian values. Whilst these are fundamental to the vision, the Christian vision itself is not fully embedded. This limits the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation of the school as a church school. The Christian narrative, which the school has chosen, is not yet explicitly driving its actions and decisions. However, in recognising this, the school has accessed invaluable support from the diocese and the local vicar. It is important that effective monitoring and evaluation by all school leaders is judging the effectiveness of the Christian vision of the school.

The quality of collective worship is enhanced by partnerships with the youth minister and vicar. The school benefits from a strong relationship with the diocese, which has provided training in leading collective worship. This has increased staff confidence and expertise. Staff appreciate the care that is given in providing detailed briefing notes for collective worship, which inform and empower them. Occasions when the school attends church to celebrate times such as harvest are greatly anticipated. These strengthen existing links and encourage a sense of mutual belonging. Pupils enjoy discussing faith and values in collective worship. They appreciate the opportunities there are to pray, like writing prayers on leaves and using wooden crosses. Pupils also value 'family led' collective worship, which deepens relationships between pupils across classes and phases.

Although there are some opportunities for spiritual flourishing within collective worship, these are not explicit. For example, pupils would like to offer their own prayers during this time. There are designated areas within each classroom, providing a focal point for spiritual reflection. However, these are not enabling pupils to develop their personal spiritual growth and understanding as fully as they might. School leaders' understanding of spirituality as enabling pupils to 'find their place in the world' is not currently having a consistent impact across the life of the school.

Wellbeing is at the heart of Nursling School and pastoral care is underpinned by its Christian values. Compassion is lived out. One child, who recently moved into the school commented, "I feel more myself here." Vulnerable pupils are offered individually designed provision which enables them to learn more effectively and self-regulate as appropriate. For example, 'Sensory Circuits' provide a welcoming, calm space for anxious pupils as the school day begins. Leaders ensure that pupils are prepared effectively for life beyond school. Pupils are given strategies to enable them to be resilient. They understand how this can have a positive influence upon achieving their potential. This emphasis on wellbeing includes adults also, with time and resources prioritising wellbeing. These include staff wellbeing days, pastoral support from the clergy team and the school's proactive open-door policy. The recently developed school garden and spiritual space are already offering opportunities for peace and personal re-creation.

Pupils at Nursling School are kind. As a school community, Nursling will ‘go the extra mile’. This is seen in the lengths staff go to, so that each child understands that they matter. Pupils celebrate and express gratitude to both adults as well as their peers in collective worship on Fridays. This attitude is intrinsic to the identity of the school, though it is mainly limited to within the school itself. Pupils hear inspiring stories of Christian lives well lived and they sometimes meet these people in collective worship. However, pupils are not empowered to view such lives as an inspiration to become independent initiators of change themselves. Leaders have not fully developed the pupils’ awareness of injustice locally, national and globally. Pupils are not clear how they can make a difference and that, in acting together, the change can be significant.

Religious education is well led and planned. Religious education is taught creatively, providing pupils with a variety of opportunities to express their knowledge and understanding. Leaders ensure that annual themes like Easter are explored in ways which highlight the progression of religious education in the school. Pupils are inspired by an enquiry approach to their learning. This encourages curiosity in a safe environment, where differing opinions are heard and respected. Finding genuine opportunities to experience faith in a diverse way is important to the school. The religious education curriculum includes welcoming visitors from different faiths. Pupils also visit a range of places of worship, for example mosques and Hindu temples. Consequently, pupils’ understanding of the world of which they are a part is deepened and a respect for others is enriched.

The inspection findings indicate that Nursling Church of England VC Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

Information			
Inspection date	25 March 2024	URN	116303
VA/VC/Academy	VC	Pupils on roll	201
Diocese	Winchester		
MAT/Federation	NA		
Headteacher	Joanne Jearrad		
Chair	Jacqueline Barker		
Inspector	Dorothy Robinson	No.	C.23/24